

REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The Final Office Action of July 11, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3 and 6-14 will remain pending. Claims 3 and 6 are amended and claims 2, 5, and 7-14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary; and (e) responds to formal matters set forth by the Examiner.

In view of the above proposed amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and/or rejections. All pending claims now being in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 3 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3 and 6 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions to make these claims allowable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections to claims 3 and 6 and to pass these claims to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,739,545 to Guha, *et al.* ("Guha"). Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guha in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 09-232079 to Hosokawa, *et al.* ("Hosokawa"). These rejections are moot since claims 2 and 5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and/or grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Hae-Chan Park
Reg. No.: 50,114

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McGuireWoods LLP
1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1800
McLean, VA 22102-4215
Tel: 703-712-5365
Fax: 703-712-5280

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